

supporting and to provide for his dependents, exists for an ex-soldier just as it does for every Canadian citizen. That ex-soldiers, or their dependents, receive a pension does not relieve them, either in their own eyes or in those of their fellows, from an obligation to work according to their abilities and to support themselves if they can.

Though this is an accurate statement of the relation existing between Canada and the men of her forces, the issue is somewhat confused by our voluntary system of recruiting, which permits individuals to decide for themselves whether they are or are not to serve. It is sometimes maintained that men who volunteer for military service should receive greater consideration than has been suggested in the preceding paragraphs. It is conceivable that it might be so in the case of a group of individuals engaged, preferably under a definite agreement, for service in operations of a special nature. For example, the members of the Permanent Force in Canada, on their enlistment, come under an agreement by which they receive a certain salary and certain pension benefits at the termination of a definite period of service. Those who enlist in the Permanent Force of the Canadian Militia do so voluntarily, and the payment of the pension benefit is a part of the contract under which they enlist. The conditions of that contract should be fulfilled in the same way as are those of any other agreement. Nevertheless, there will be no justification, in the present war, for giving greater consideration to those who volunteer for service than that outlined. If the war lasts much longer military service for able-bodied men practically will have become universal in Canada. When such a situation exists, those who volunteered and served first will have a distinct advantage over those who enlisted at a later date, either voluntarily or under moral or legal compulsion. About 400,000 men have already joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force; an enlistment of 500,000 men has been authorized. To enlist that number will tax Canadian resources severely. It is questionable whether it will be possible to do so without resorting to some measure